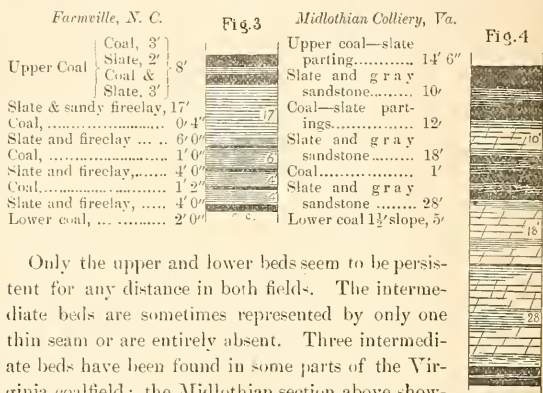


The following section of the carboniferous group at Farmville (N. C.) shows the character of this sub-group in closer detail and its remarkable resemblance to the coal group at Midlothian colliery in the Richmond basin as given by Mr. Heinrich.



Only the upper and lower beds seem to be persistent for any distance in both fields. The intermediate beds are sometimes represented by only one thin seam or are entirely absent. Three intermediate beds have been found in some parts of the Virginia coalfield; the Midlothian section above showing one less, and hence not in entire agreement with the Farmville section.

*History of commercial development.*—Mr. Heinrich states that coal was discovered in the Richmond basin as early as 1700, as in that year it was used in the neighborhood. Systematic mining for shipment was commenced about 1790, this being the first coal mined for shipment in the United States. Notwithstanding the advantage secured by its early development and its proximity to the seaboard, the output of coal from this basin has grown very slowly in comparison with other mining fields opened at a later date. Mr. Heinrich places the total output from 1822 to 1842 at 1,925,000 tons, an average of 96,250 tons per annum or 320 tons per day. In 1843 the output was 95,606 tons; in 1850 it had reached 138,017 tons; in 1861 it fell to 94,697 tons; in 1869 reached 115,564 tons, and has since declined greatly; only 57,182 tons being produced in 1876, and 67,907 tons in 1877,